



PUBLIC HEALTH BYTES

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Henrico Health Department's Newsletter

Working in partnership
with the citizens of
Henrico County to create
the conditions for health.

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PANDEMIC ALERT PHASE: 3

Pandemic/Avian Flu Update –Human Cases- New cases were reported in Indonesia (2) this past month, bringing the total number of human H5N1 cases for YTD 2006 to 111, of which 75 were fatal, (67.6% case fatality rate for 2006). On 11/14/06, OSHA announced safety guidelines for employees and employers regarding the risk of occupational exposure to avian influenza from infected birds. The guidelines can be found here:

<http://www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/avian-flu.html>

Seasonal Influenza Corner

Virginia 2006/2007 Influenza Surveillance Activity

Level: **Sporadic** (As of 11/20/2006)

No cases of influenza-like-illness (ILI) have been reported to the VDH surveillance program by Henrico's sentinel provider for the 2006-07 flu season. However, sentinel providers in other districts have reported isolated cases of lab confirmed influenza, resulting in Virginia reporting "sporadic" flu activity. Nationally, most states are reporting "no activity" or "sporadic" influenza activity. For information on flu activity in Virginia, see: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epi/flu.asp>

Our local-area Infection Control Practitioners (ICPs) and private providers have submitted reports of positive rapid flu tests and EIA tests totaling 14 cases of influenza (11A, 3B) from patients in ten different Henrico County zip codes, with 23060 and 23228 the only zip codes reporting multiple cases.

Please continue to report the number of lab confirmed cases of influenza to the health department weekly on an Epi-1 form (fax to 804-501-4232). If available, report the type of influenza, as well as a tally of the patient's zip codes, and the time frame.

School Health

As a result of the 2006 Virginia General Assembly legislation which required all 6th grade students to have a tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) booster shot prior to entry into school this fall, 6th grade Henrico County Public School students without evidence of adequate pertussis vaccination will be excluded from school starting Tuesday Dec 5th. In addition to helping parents of 6th graders ensure their child is appropriately vaccinated (Tdap) and have supporting documentation, it is also a good time to ensure that younger students receive the appropriate booster vaccination to prevent documentation and tracking issues at a later time.

Emergency Preparedness

Operation HEALTH - Thank you to all Henrico County residents and volunteers who helped us test our emergency plan to deliver vaccine to the general population in a centralized, high through-put manner on Saturday, November 4th. This drill, named Operation HEALTH, included administering up to 1400 doses of the 2006-07 seasonal influenza vaccine over a 4-hour period at 2 separate locations – Fairfield Middle School and Dumbarton Elementary School. Participants received the vaccine free of charge during this exercise and were able to choose between receipt of either Fluvarix® inactivated virus vaccine or FluMist® nasal spray vaccine. Henrico Health District will continue to develop and coordinate local, regional, state and national resources to plan for, detect, respond to, and mitigate the potential affects of pandemic influenza and other public health hazards. The spirit of cooperation, so evident throughout the Operation HEALTH endeavor, will be necessary to plan effectively.

Prevention Update

1) Remember to offer flu vaccine to your patients throughout the month of December and beyond. CDC designated the week after Thanksgiving as **National Influenza Vaccination Week**. This event is designed to raise awareness of the importance of continuing flu vaccination and protecting patients:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw06.htm>

2) The latest issue of "Guide to Clinical Preventive Services" is now available from AHRQ. Details at:

<http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/pocketgd.htm>

Satellite Medical Update

CDC will be broadcasting "Adult Immunization 2006" on 12/7/2006 from 12:00 Noon to 2:30 PM. This broadcast will update healthcare personnel on the 2006-2007 Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule.

You can access the webcast version at

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/phtn/>.

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